

In the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, please replace the **title** of the application with the following **new title**:

~~**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OTB ANALYSIS**~~
A METHOD OF COMPARING PRORATED INVENTORY BUDGETS
AND SIMULATED FUTURE INVENTORY

On page 3 of the specification, under the heading **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**, please insert the following new paragraph:

[0010A] Figure 7 depicts steps that may be combined in a method that produces open to buy inventory analytics.

On page 13 of the specification, after paragraph **[0033]**, please insert the following new paragraph:

[0033A] One embodiment disclosed is a method of prorating inventory budgets among items, as depicted in figure 7. This method includes setting inventory budgets for groups of items 702 and projecting future sales for the items 704. It further includes setting notional deliveries for the items 706, utilizing (to set the notional deliveries) the projected future sales unconstrained by the inventory budgets. It includes projecting future inventory for the items 708, utilizing current inventory, the projected future sales, firm future deliveries and the notional deliveries. It further involves prorating the inventory budgets 710 among the items, for a plurality of predetermined time periods. It reports open to buy values 714 that compare the prorated inventory budgets for the items or aggregations of the items to the projected future inventory for the items or aggregations of the items. A further technology sometimes combined with this embodiment includes calculating 712 reduced notional deliveries for the items consistent with prorated open to buy inventory budgets and calculating lost sales 712 for the items based on the reduced notional deliveries.

On page 23 of the specification, under the heading **ABSTRACT**, please replace that paragraph entirely with the following:

Disclosed are methods of and apparatus for analyzing projected future inventory against inventory budgets to determine open-to-buy inventory values. Inventory budgets are set, then demand is projected and some or all of notional deliveries, sales and inventory are simulated at the item level, capturing the interaction of inventory and sales. Analytic reports are generated that compare open to buy values and inventory budgets. The reports may indicate lost sales and may segregate saleable inventory from component inventory.